



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. HILL 102

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Ernst-Walter Hillebrand

Serial No.: 10/049,498

Filed: February 13, 2002

Examiner:

Art Unit:

For: PASSIVATION METHOD FOR ZINC-
NICKEL LAYERS

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) Commissioner for Patents
) Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

) DATE: March 21, 2002

) NAME Christine A. Barglik
(TYPED OR PRINTED)

) SIGNATURE Christine A. Barglik

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is

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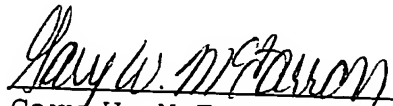
necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

Please note that Reference Nos. 4-8 are Japanese publications (obtained from the EPO) for which English language abstracts have been provided. Reference No. 10 is a German language patent, for which an English language abstract has been provided. Reference Nos. 12-14 are the International Search Report, Written Opinion (in German) and International Preliminary Examination Report (in German) for the above-identified application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months from the filing date. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



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